

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. APPLN. NO. 09/462,206

Please delete the present Abstract of the Disclosure and insert the following:

ALSTOM FRANCE S.A.

Method of laser welding overlapping sheets and
corresponding railway vehicle body

ABSTRACT OF THE TECHNICAL CONTENT OF THE INVENTION

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A first (5) of the sheets ~~comprises~~has, near the zone (6) of overlap, stiffening ~~means~~parts (74) designed to resist the bending of the sheet along the zone of overlap. At least one region of the first sheet (5) is made to project, cantilever fashion, into the zone (6) of overlap. The stiffening ~~means~~parts are located near this cantilevered region. A pressing mechanism of a laser welding installation (2) is made to press against another sheet (4) to hold the sheets in contact with one ~~either~~another at the zone (6) of overlap. The laser welding installation is used to weld the sheets together along the zone of overlap. Application to the welding together, by transparency-welding, of sheets of the external skin of railway vehicle bodies.

Fig. 6.